WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A storage unit which is detachable from an information processing apparatus, and has a storage medium for storing data from the information processing apparatus and a communication interface with the information processing apparatus, comprising:

input means for inputting eject instruction; and

output means for externally outputting an eject permission signal in accordance with input of the eject instruction.

2. The unit according to claim 1, wherein

the unit further comprises state shift means for shifting the storage unit to an ejectable state when the eject instruction is input by said input means, and

said output means externally outputs the eject permission signal upon completion of the shift to the ejectable state by said state shift means.

3. The unit according to claim 2, wherein said state shift means inhibits reception of an external input to the communication interface, and executes cash content flash processing.

4. The unit according to claim 1, wherein said output means uses an extra signal line in the communication interface.

5. The unit according to claim 1, wherein said input means inputs an eject command as the eject instruction via the communication interface.

6. The unit according to claim 1, wherein said input means inputs a status of an operation switch as the eject instruction via an extra signal line in the communication interface.

7. The unit according to claim 1, wherein said input means further comprises

switch input means for inputting a status of an operation switch, and

notification means for notifying the information processing apparatus via the communication interface of an operation status of the operation switch on the basis of the status of the operation switch that is input by said switch input means.

8. The unit according to claim 2, wherein

said input means can input, as the eject instruction, an eject command issued by the information processing apparatus and a signal from an operation switch, and

when the signal from the operation switch is input as an eject signal, said state shift means shifts the storage unit to the ejectable state at end of data communication between the information processing apparatus and the storage unit.

9. The unit according to claim 6, wherein the operation switch is arranged in the storage unit.

10. An information processing apparatus which allows detaching a storage unit defined in claim 1,

comprising:

providing means for providing a user interface;

issuing means for issuing eject instruction to the storage unit in accordance with user operation to the user interface; and

eject means for ejecting the storage unit on the basis of an eject permission signal which is output from the storage unit in accordance with the eject instruction.

11. An information processing apparatus which allows detaching a storage unit defined in claim 7, comprising:

monitoring means for inquiring of the storage unit as to a status of an operation switch, and monitoring a status signal representing the status of the operation switch;

issuing means for issuing eject instruction to the storage unit in accordance with user operation to a user interface provided by software or the status signal; and

eject means for ejecting the storage unit on the basis of an eject permission signal which is output from the storage unit in accordance with the eject instruction.

12. An eject control method for a storage unit which is detachable from an information processing apparatus, and has a storage medium for storing data from the

information processing apparatus and a communication interface with the information processing apparatus, comprising:

a providing step of causing the information processing apparatus to provide a user interface;

an issuing step of issuing eject instruction to the storage unit in accordance with user operation to the user interface;

a state shift step of shifting the storage unit to an ejectable state in accordance with the eject instruction issued in the issuing step;

an output step of causing the storage unit to output an eject permission signal to the information processing apparatus in accordance with the eject instruction; and

an eject step of causing the information processing apparatus to eject the storage unit on the basis of the eject permission signal.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein

the method further comprises an acquisition step of inquiring of the storage unit as to an operation status of a switch connected to the storage unit, thereby acquiring the operation status, and

in the issuing step, the information processing apparatus issues the eject instruction to the storage unit in accordance with the user operation to the user interface provided by software and the operation status

of the switch acquired in the acquisition step.

14. A housing apparatus which allows detaching a storage unit defined in claim 1 and can be connected to a computer apparatus, comprising:

an interface which realizes data communication between the storage unit and the computer apparatus;

transmission means for transmitting eject instruction from the computer apparatus to the storage unit; and

an eject mechanism which ejects the storage unit in accordance with an eject permission signal from the storage unit.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein

the apparatus further comprises an eject designation switch, and

said transmission means transmits the eject instruction to the storage unit in accordance with operation on said switch.